

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated September 9, 2003, Claims 1-11 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-11 are thus pending. Reconsideration of the pending claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)**

Claims 1-5, and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Travieso et al. (U.S. 5,943,455) in view of Ehrfeld et al. ("Integrated Optics and Micro Optics with Polymers").

Claims 1,5, and 7 include the claim language "at least a first fiber of said fibers is at least partially inserted into said troughs, and at least a second fiber of said fibers crosses the first fiber".

Travieso shows no troughs, and fails to teach claims 1, 5, and 7.

Ehrfeld, in contrast with claims 1, 5, and 7, shows a monomode fiber inside a fiber alignment groove. No other fiber crosses the monomode fiber inside the groove. Furthermore, each fiber alignment groove of Ehrfeld is used only for alignment of a single monomode fiber at the edge of the entire waveguide structure; the motivation of the fiber alignment groove as taught by Ehrfeld is not for aiding the crossing over of fibers. Ehrfeld also does not show any troughs in the interior of the waveguide structure.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 1-5, and 7-11.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)**

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Travieso et al. (U.S. 5,943,455) in view of Ehrfeld et al. ("Integrated Optics and Micro Optics with Polymers") and further in view of Itoh et al. (U.S. 6,115,515).

RCE and Amendment 1.114 filed on November 7, 2003  
Application No.: 09/832,827; Filed April 12, 2001  
Attorney Docket No.: 20397.219.201

Claim 6 depends from claim 5. For at least the reasons above relating to claim 5, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claim 6.

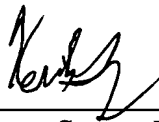
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**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 20397.219.201).

Respectfully submitted,

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